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Belgium-Luxembourg

Livestock and Products

Annual

2000

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Report Highlights:

Belgian livestock production is slowly recovering from the dioxin crisis. In 1999, the Belgian cattle herd declined (-3.2%) to 3.1 million. The number of pigs declined (-4.1%) to 7.3 million. For 2000, a moderate increase is expected. The export of live pigs rose by more than 70 percent during the dioxin crisis. The trade in beef, veal and pork slowed down about 10 percent.

Includes PSD changes: Yes

Includes Trade Matrix: Yes

Annual Report

The Hague [NL1], BE

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Executive Summary

Cattle, beef and veal

The total Belgian cattle herd declined from 3,362,000 head in 1996 to 3,085,000 head in 1999. The number of dairy cows showed a continuous decline since the introduction of the milk quota in 1984.

Since 1994, the Belgian import of live cattle declined from 256,000 head to 83,000 head in 1999. In the last decade the export of live animals stabilized at around 300,000 animals. In 1999, exports totaled 330,000 animals.

Since 1993, the domestic production of beef and veal declined since 1993 but the import of beef and veal more than doubled to 47,000 in 1998. In 1999 however, the import declined 8 percent to totally 43,000 MT.

Swine and pork

The total number of pigs in Belgium showed an almost continuous growth during the last decade. However, in 1999, the number of pigs decreased about 3 percent. With better market prospects and an increase in the number of piglets, a moderate increase of the total stock is expected. On the long term, manure production is the limiting factor for further expansion. The Belgian government plans to reduce nitrate emissions before 2005 by reducing the pig stock and treating the manure surplus.

Belgian exports of live pigs generally fluctuate between 600,000 and 850,000 head, but in 1999, exports rose to 1,142,000 animals. During the summer of 1999, the prices of Belgian live pigs were low because of the dioxin crisis.

During 1999, the Belgian trade in pork slowed down. The imports decreased 13 percent to 97,000 MT and exports decreased 5.5 percent to 625,000 MT.

Conversion rates:

1997 US\$ 1.00 = Bfr. 34.62

1998 US\$ 1.00 = Bfr. 37.19

1999 US\$ 1.00 = Bfr. 37.92

2000 US\$ 1.00 = Bfr. 42.50 (average June 2000)

Acronyms used in Report:

CLE = Centrum voor Lanbouweconomie (CEA = Centrum for Economics and Agriculture)

NIS = Nationaal Instituut voor Statistiek (National Institute for Statistics)

CATTLE, BEEF & VEAL**Production**

PSD Table						
Country	Belgium & Luxembourg					
Commodity	Animal Numbers, Cattle				(1000 HEAD)	
	Revised	1999	Preliminary	2000	Forecast	2001
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		01/1999		01/2000		01/2001
Total Cattle Beg. Stks	3186	3186	3190	3085	0	0
Dairy Cows Beg. Stocks	690	632	690	619	0	620
Beef Cows Beg. Stocks	0	488	0	502	0	490
Production (Calf Crop)	1284	1139	1285	1215	0	1170
Intra EC Imports	100	83	120	100	0	100
Other Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Imports	100	83	120	100	0	100
TOTAL SUPPLY	4570	4408	4595	4400	0	1270
Intra EC Exports	300	330	290	300	0	300
Other Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Exports	300	330	290	300	0	300
Cow Slaughter	280	262	290	260	0	255
Calf Slaughter	275	268	275	265	0	260
Other Slaughter	345	283	365	275	0	260
Total Slaughter	900	813	930	800	0	775
Loss	180	180	180	175	0	170
Ending Inventories	3190	3085	3195	3125	0	3150
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	4570	4408	4595	4400	0	4395
Calendar Yr. Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calendar Yr. Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0

Note: The figures of the production, slaughter and consumption are derived from the supply demand table of the Ministry of Trade and Agriculture. The Belgian Office for External Trade (OBCE) is the source of the trade of live animals. The National Institute of Statistics (NIS) is the source of the animal stock.

PSD Table						
Country	Belgium-Luxembourg					
Commodity	Meat, Beef and Veal				(1000 MT CWE)(1000 HEAD)	
	Revised	1999	Preliminary	2000	Forecast	2001
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		01/1999		01/2000		01/2001
Slaughter (Reference)	900	813	930	800	0	775
Beginning Stocks	0	1	0	1	0	0
Production	290	273	300	269	0	260
Intra EC Imports	70	34	45	30	0	27
Other Imports	5	9	15	7	0	10
TOTAL Imports	75	43	60	37	0	37
TOTAL SUPPLY	365	317	360	307	0	297
Intra EC Exports	85	98	100	90	0	83
Other Exports	48	12	30	12	0	10
TOTAL Exports	133	110	130	102	0	93
Human Dom. Consumption	225	206	230	205	0	204
Other Use, Losses	7	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Dom. Consumption	232	206	230	205	0	204
Ending Stocks	0	1	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	365	317	360	307	0	297
Calendar Yr. Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calendar Yr. Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0

Note: The figures of the production, trade, slaughter and consumption are derived from the supply demand table of the Ministry of Trade and Agriculture. The National Institute of Statistics (NIS) is the source of the animal stock.

Belgium and Luxembourg - Cattle - December Livestock Census (1,000 Head)				
	1998*	1999*	2000**	2000 (1998=100)
Cattle Total	3,186	3,085	3,125	98
of which:				
Cattle of less than 1 year:				
- to be slaughtered as calves	163	163	175	107
- other male bovines	253	246	255	101
- other female bovines	448	442	450	100
Cattle from 1 to less than 2 years:				
- male bovines	161	158	155	96
- female for slaughter	56	53	55	98
- heifers replacing cows in production	417	420	400	96
bovines of 2 years and more:				
- males	38	38	38	100
- heifers replacing cows in production	212	212	200	94
- dairy cows	632	619	600	95
- suckling cows	488	502	510	105
- female for slaughter and other	117	118	120	103

*Update **Estimation Source: N.I.S. (National Institute of Statistics)

The total cattle herd declined from 3,362,000 animals in 1996 to 3,085,000 animals in 1999. The number of dairy cows showed a continuous decline since the introduction of the milk quota in 1984. In 1984, 1,055,000 dairy cows were counted, but the Belgian stock is currently reduced to about 619,000 head. During the last five years, the number of female bovines above two years stabilized between 1,450,000 and 1,460,000 head while calf production declined from 1,415,000 head per year in 1995 to about 1,200,000 head in 1999.

The beef and veal sector was hit by the BSE crisis in 1996. Since 1997, prices recovered but did not reach the level before the crisis. A minor increase, or at least stabilization, of the beef and veal production is expected as a result of a normal 5-year cycle of prices and farmers income. A remaining limiting factor for the veal sector is the manure issue.

Belgium and Luxembourg: Bovine Slaughter (1,000 Head)				
	1997	1998	1999*	2000**
Steers	13	12	6	5
Bulls	316	289	231	225
Cows	324	281	262	260
Heifers	61	50	45	40
Calves	320	315	268	270
Total	1,035	949	813	800

* Update ** Estimation Source: N.I.S. (National Institute of Statistics)

Since 1993, the Belgian bovine slaughter number showed a steady decline. The slaughter number fell from 1,062,000 in 1997 to 813,000 head in 1999. Because the carcass weight was stable the last six years (between 330 and 340 kg), the production volume of beef and veal declined from 375,000 MT in 1993 to a current 273,000 MT.

Consumption

Belgium: Per Capita Consumption of Beef and Veal Kilos per inhabitant				
	1997	1998	1999	2000*
Beef & Veal	21.4	21.3	21.2	21.0

*Estimation Source: C.E.A. (Centrum for Economics and Agriculture)

The Belgian per capita consumption of beef and veal shows a slight downwards trend but has been more stable than the per capita consumption of pork and poultry over the past 5 years.

Trade

Imports of live cattle fell from 256,000 in 1994 to 83,000 head in 1999. In the last decade, exports of live animals stabilized around 300,000 head. In 1999, exports totaled 330,000 animals.

While the domestic production of beef and veal declined since 1993, the import of beef and veal increased from 20,000 MT in 1991 to 47,000 in 1998. In 1999, imports declined 8 percent to 43,000 MT. Exports of beef and veal remained relatively stable but dropped in 1998 by 21 percent to 127,000 MT. In 1999, exports totaled 110,000 MT.

Note that the source of the trade of live animals is the Belgian Office for External Trade (OBCE) and the figures of the trade of meat is derived from the supply demand table of National Institute of Statistics (NIS) and STATEC.

Import Trade Matrix - Animal Numbers, Cattle

Country	Belgium-Luxembourg		Units:1,000 Head	
Commodity	Animal Numbers, Cattle		Partial Begin January	
			Partial End December	
Imports for:	1998	1999	1999	2000
	Full	Full	Partial	Full Forecast
U.S.	0	0	0	0
Others				
EU	125	83	45	100
France	58	21	14	35
Netherlands	23	16	8	25
Germany	43	28	13	30
Other EU	1	17	10	10
Total for Others	125	83	45	100
Others not Listed	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	125	83	45	100

Export Trade Matrix - Animal Numbers, Cattle

Country	Belgium-Luxembourg		Units:1,000 Head	
Commodity	Animal Numbers, Cattle		Partial Begin January	
			Partial End December	
Exports for:	1998	1999	1999	2000
	Full	Full	Partial	Full Forecast
U.S.	0	0	0	0
Others				
EU	275	330	162	300
France	53	61	35	60
Netherlands	187	208	98	190
Germany	12	16	7	12
Italy	20	26	10	25
Spain	3	2	1	3
Other EU	0	17	11	10
Total for Others	275	330	162	300
Others not Listed	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	275	330	162	300

Import Trade Matrix - Meat, Beef & Veal

Country	Belgium-Luxembourg		Units:1,000 MT PWE	
Commodity	Meat, Beef and Veal		Partial Begin	January
			Partial End	December
Imports for:	1998	1999	1999	2000
	Full	Full	Partial	Full Forecast
U.S.	0	0	0	0
Others				
EU	22	30	15	50
France	8	11	6	18
Netherlands	8	9	4	18
Germany	2	3	1	5
Italy	0	1	1	2
U.K.	0	0	0	0
Ireland	1	1	1	2
Spain	2	1	1	2
Other EU	1	3	1	3
Argentina	1	1	1	1
Total for Others	23	30	15	51
Others not Listed	1	4	1	13
Grand Total	24	34	16	64

Export Trade Matrix - Meat, Beef & Veal

Country	Belgium-Luxembourg		Units:1,000 MT PWE	
Commodity	Meat, Beef and Veal		Partial Begin	January
			Partial End	December
Exports for:	1998	1999	1999	2000
	Full	Full	Partial	Full Forecast
U.S.	0	0	0	0
Others				
EU	92	85	44	130
France	25	23	12	40
Netherlands	32	30	14	40
Germany	9	12	6	15
Italy	1	10	5	15
U.K.	14	1	0	5
Greece	8	4	3	5
Spain	3	3	2	5
Other EU	0	2	1	5
Total for Others	92	85	44	130
Others not Listed	21	10	7	20
Grand Total	113	95	51	150

Prices

In 1996 the Belgian beef and veal sector was hit by the BSE crisis. During 1997 prices recovered but did not reach the level before the crisis. The prices of the better qualities beef and veal further improved during 1998 while the price of lower qualities declined as a result of the economic troubles in Russia and price competition with other meat, suitable for processing to meat products.

Cattle, producer prices in Dutch Guilders per kilo live weight									
	The Netherlands					Belgium*			
	1998	1999	2000	Change		1998	1999	2000	Change
January	2.67	2.12	2.27	7.4%		2.80	4.30	4.04	-6.2%
February	2.65	2.20	1.87	-15.2%		2.74	4.27	4.05	-5.3%
March	2.65	2.23	1.89	-15.3%		2.70	4.20	4.09	-2.7%
April	2.66	2.26	2.43	7.9%		2.74	4.17	4.10	-1.6%
May	2.71	2.33	2.56	9.7%		2.90	4.24	4.12	-2.9%
June	2.74	2.43	2.57	5.7%		2.93	4.20	4.15	-1.3%
July	2.73	2.37	2.62	10.6%		2.92	4.06	4.18	3.0%
August	2.72	2.34		-100.0%		2.90	3.99		-100.0%
September	2.62	2.35		-100.0%		2.80	3.94		-100.0%
October	2.48	2.30		-100.0%		2.80	3.92		-100.0%
November	2.39	2.25		-100.0%		2.71	3.96		-100.0%
December	2.39	2.24		-100.0%		2.69	4.00		-100.0%

Source: Dutch Product Board for Livestock

* Note : 1998 and 1999 Belgian prices for live, mature cattle are not comparable because of an EU change in weighing coefficients.

SWINE & PORK**Production**

PSD Table						
Country	Belgium-Luxembourg					
Commodity	Animal Numbers, Swine				(1000 HEAD)	
	Revised	1999	Preliminary	2000	Forecast	2001
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		01/1999		01/2000		01/2001
TOTAL Beginning Stocks	7632	7632	7600	7322	0	0
Sow Beginning Stocks	764	754	760	720	0	700
Production (Pig Crop)	11788	11513	11895	11600	0	10400
Intra EC Imports	800	903	900	1000	0	900
Other Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Imports	800	903	900	1000	0	900
TOTAL SUPPLY	20220	20048	20395	19922	0	11300
Intra EC Exports	690	1141	670	1100	0	1000
Other Exports	0	1	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Exports	690	1142	670	1100	0	1000
Sow Slaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER SLAUGHTER	10785	10439	11021	10500	0	9500
Total Slaughter	10785	10439	11021	10500	0	9500
Loss	1145	1145	1054	922	0	1000
Ending Inventories	7600	7322	7650	7400	0	7200
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	20220	20048	20395	19922	0	18700
Calendar Yr. Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calendar Yr. Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0

Note: The figures of the production, slaughter and consumption are derived from the supply demand table of the Ministry of Trade and Agriculture. The Belgian Office for External Trade (OBCE) is the source of the trade of live animals. The National Institute of Statistics (NIS) is the source of the animal stock.

PSD Table						
Country	Belgium-Luxembourg					
Commodity	Meat, Swine		(1000 MT CWE)(1000 HEAD)			
	Revised	1999	Preliminary	2000	Forecast	2001
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		01/1999		01/2000		01/2001
Slaughter (Reference)	10785	10439	11021	10500	0	9500
Beginning Stocks	0	2	0	8	0	0
Production	1003	977	1025	987	0	893
Intra EC Imports	75	97	75	100	0	105
Other Imports	0	0	0	2	0	2
TOTAL Imports	75	97	75	102	0	107
TOTAL SUPPLY	1078	1076	1100	1097	0	1000
Intra EC Exports	450	577	470	600	0	525
Other Exports	70	47	60	47	0	25
TOTAL Exports	520	624	530	647	0	550
Human Dom. Consumption	493	444	570	450	0	450
Other Use, Losses	65	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Dom. Consumption	558	444	570	450	0	450
Ending Stocks	0	8	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	1078	1076	1100	1097	0	1000
Calendar Yr. Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calendar Yr. Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0

Note: The figures of the production, trade, slaughter and consumption are derived from the supply demand table of the Ministry of Trade and Agriculture. The National Institute of Statistics (NIS) is the source of the animal stock.

Belgium and Luxembourg - Swine - December Livestock Census				
	1998	1999	2000*	2000 (1998=100)
Total Number of Pigs	7,632	7,322	7,288	95
of which:				
piglets of less than 20 kilos	2,221	1,979	2,077	94
pigs of 20 to less than 50 kilos	1,816	1,778	1,717	95
pigs for fattening - 50 kilos and more:	2,792	2,822	2,766	99
pigs for breeding - 50 kilos and more:				
- boars	16	14	16	100
- sows, bred	584	543	543	93
- sows, unbred	194	177	170	88
other	8	10	10	125

* Stock at April 1st 2000 Source: N.I.S. (National Institute of Statistics)

The total number of pigs in Belgium showed an almost continuous growth during the last decade. As a result of the swine fever outbreak in The Netherlands in 1996, the Belgian pig population increased the following year by 246,000, to 7,436,000 head, and pork production increased by 20,000 MT to 1,048,000 MT in 1997.

However, during 1999, the number of pigs decreased about 4 percent and the production of pork declined 10,000 MT. The figures in April 2000 revealed that the decline of the pig stock has continued but piglets however, increased by 5 percent, which leads to moderate growth of the total stock in the near future. Prices of pork are currently rising and it is generally thought that the Belgian swine stock could reach the record level of 1998.

The growth of the swine stock depends on governmental measures against nitrate emissions, as imposed by the EU legislation. On a long term basis manure is a serious limiting factor for pork production. The manure problem is especially strong in Flanders (the Northern and Dutch speaking part of Belgium) where the main intensive production is located. The only possible solution, according to the government, is reduction of the stock and, if feasible, treatment of manure (presently test are done).

In 2000, the number of bred sows stabilized at 543,000 and the piglets production per bred sow per year remained stable. The slaughter/production ratio has been stable over the last ten years, with a carcass weight between 90 and 94 kg.

Belgium and Luxembourg- Slaughter figures x 1,000 Head			
	1998*	1999*	2000
1 st quarter	2,761	2,974	2,786*
2 nd quarter	2,851	2,331	2,622**
3 rd quarter	2,832	2,507	2,621**
4 th quarter	3,045	2,796	2,621**
Total for the Year	11,489	10,608	10,650**

*Updated **Estimated Source: N.I.S. (National Institute of Statistics)

Consumption

Belgium: Per Capita Consumption of Pork Kilos per inhabitant					
	1996	1997	1998	1999*	2000*
Pork	49.0	45.0	48.0	43.0	43.0

*Estimation Source: C.E.A. (Centrum for Economics and Agriculture)

The Belgian per capita consumption of pork peaked in 1992 with 52.0 kg per capita per year. Pork consumption fell in 1997 (high prices) and in 1999 (dioxin crisis) to presently 43.0 per capita per year. The reductions in 1997 and in 1999 are probably caused by respectively high prices during mid 1997 and the dioxin crisis in 1999.

Trade

The Belgian import of live pigs increased to more than 2,000,000 head in 1991 but declined to only 903,000 animals in 1999. In the last decade, Belgian exports of pigs fluctuated between 600,000 and 850,000 head. In 1999, exports increased to 1,142,000 animals. Major export increases were reported during July, August and September to The Netherlands (129,000 in 1998, 367,000 in 1999) and Germany (92,000 in 1998, 285,000 in 1999). During the summer of 1999, prices of Belgian live animals were low as a result of the dioxin crisis.

In 1997, imports of pork increased sharply by 74 percent to 106,000 MT and fluctuated the last three years around 100,000 MT per year. During the last three years, exports of pork meat was about 670,000 MT per year. In 1999, the Belgian trade in pork slowed down. Imports decreased by 13 percent to 97,000 MT and exports decreased by 5.5 percent to 625,000 MT.

Note that the source of the trade of live animals is the Belgian Office for External Trade (OBCE) and the figures of the trade of meat is derived from the supply demand table of National Institute of Statistics (NIS) and STATEC.

Import Trade Matrix - Animal Numbers, Swine

Country	Belgium-Luxembourg		Units:1,000 Head	
Commodity	Animal Numbers, Swine		Partial Begin January	
			Partial End December	
Imports for:	1998	1999	1999	2000
	Full	Full	Partial	Full Forecast
U.S.	0	0	0	0
Others				
EU	940	903	473	900
France	125	67	45	70
Netherlands	371	514	266	500
Germany	413	280	146	300
U.K.	21	10	5	10
Austria	9	1	0	5
Denmark	1	12	10	5
Ireland	0	0	0	0
Spain	0	0	0	0
Other EU	0	19	1	10
Total for Others	940	903	473	1800
Others not Listed	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	940	903	473	1800

Export Trade Matrix - Animal Numbers, Swine

Country	Belgium-Luxembourg		Units:1,000 Head	
Commodity	Animal Numbers, Swine		Partial Begin January	
			Partial End December	
Exports for:	1998	1999	1999	2000
	Full	Full	Partial	Full Forecast
U.S.	0	0	0	0
Others				
EU	668	1141	341	1,000
France	91	52	43	85
Netherlands	129	367	102	325
Germany	92	285	36	250
Italy	335	316	116	250
Austria	2	13	1	10
U.K.	0	0	0	0
Spain	15	30	10	25
Portugal	2	2	0	5
Other EU	2	75	10	50
Total for Others	668	1141	341	1,000
Others not Listed	1	1	1	0
Grand Total	669	1142	342	1000

Import Trade Matrix - Meat, Swine

Country	Belgium-Luxembourg		Units:1,000 MT PWE	
Commodity	Meat, Swine		Partial Begin January	
			Partial End December	
Imports for:	1998	1999	1999	2000
	Full	Full	Partial	Full Forecast
U.S.	0	0	0	0
Others				
EU	72	64	35	130
France	13	8	5	30
Netherlands	37	25	14	50
Germany	4	9	4	15
Spain	8	9	4	15
U.K.	4	2	2	5
Ireland	2	0	0	5
Denmark	4	4	2	5
Other EU	0	6	4	5
Total for Others	72	64	35	260
Others not Listed	0	1	0	0
Grand Total	72	65	35	260

Export Trade Matrix - Meat, Swine

Country	Belgium-Luxembourg		Units:1,000 MT PWE	
Commodity	Meat, Swine		Partial Begin January	
			Partial End December	
Exports for:	1998	1999	1999	2000
	Full	Full	Partial	Full Forecast
U.S.	0	0	0	0
Others				
EU	510	473	235	600
France	54	50	29	80
Netherlands	34	36	14	50
Germany	289	282	137	300
Italy	85	61	34	100
Spain	16	9	5	20
U.K.	7	11	4	15
Greece	15	10	6	15
Portugal	3	2	1	5
Other EU	7	12	4	15
Total for Others	510	473	235	600
Others not Listed	15	24	22	32
Grand Total	525	497	257	632

Policy and Marketing

-The Flemish minister of Environment and Agriculture, Vera Dua, wants to reduce nitrate emissions to comply with EU legislation. The Minister plans to do this before 2005 by reducing pig stocks and treating the manure surplus. Subsidies are given for closing down operations (Bfr. 15,975 per sow sty and Bfr. 1,251 per slaughter hog sty). There are also subsidies for the organic production of pork. It is estimated that 550,000 sows and 5 million slaughter hogs will disappear. An exception is made for the production of piglets, currently a large number of piglets are imported, which makes the Flemish farms sensitive to diseases.

-In April, the Minister announced subsidies to reduce the pig stock to Bfr. 0.7 billion. This sum is far under the request of the Boerenbond (the Belgian Farmers Association) of Bfr. 9 billion. The Dutch government subsidies totals about Bfr. 30 billion for reducing only twice the amount of Belgian emissions.

-Belgian farmers are concerned that Dutch pig farmers will buy or contract land in Belgium to avoid the restrictions in The Netherlands. Starting in 2002, Dutch pig farmers are obliged to have land, or contracts with land owners, to dispose their manure production.

-The measures against the outbreak of the disease of Aujeszky appeared to be successful. During the season '99/'00, the number of infected pig breeding farms declined with the exception of the farms in West Flanders. The Boerenbond urged for an Aujeszky free status for the sales of sows. In 1999, 32 percent of pig farmers raising sows obtained the Aujeszky free status.

Prices

In Belgium, the farmers weekly income is calculated by the Bureau for Agricultural Economics (CLE). Over the last few years, the revenue of breeding and fattening of pigs showed a clear "swine-cycle", a regular fluctuation of prices and income. The fluctuation is mainly caused by the variation in the price for piglets and slaughter hogs.

Between the second quarter of 1998 and the start of 2000, the income for the swine breeding was negative. Around January 1999, the loss was about Bfr. 200 per sow sty. The income per slaughter hog sty was between Bfr. 0 and 200.

In 1999, income slowly improved but the dioxin crisis had a negative effect during the second half of 1999. The loss due to the dioxin crisis is estimated at Bfr. 3140 per sow and Bfr. 445 per slaughter hog. The total loss for the swine sector was Bfr. 4.1 billion.

Income currently shows an upwards trend for both the breeding and the fattening. For the breeding the main reason is the increased production of piglets per sow (both bred and not bred). The income for the swine fattening increased as a result of feed costs, feed conversion (presently 3.6) and price of piglets.

Swine, producer prices in Dutch Guilders per kilo slaughter weight.									
	The Netherlands					Belgium			
	1998	1999	2000	Change		1998	1999	2000	Change
January	2.58	1.55	2.10	35.3%		3.05	1.98	2.33	17.3%
February	2.87	1.90	2.43	27.8%		3.26	2.24	2.60	15.9%
March	2.68	1.82	2.51	37.6%		3.11	2.21	2.72	23.0%
April	2.57	1.80	2.65	47.0%		3.01	2.17	2.90	33.7%
May	2.35	1.95	2.86	46.7%		2.77	2.33	2.91	24.8%
June	2.41	2.42	2.97	22.9%		2.82	2.18	3.19	46.4%
July	2.32	2.32	2.87	24.0%		2.68	1.94	3.15	62.3%
August	2.10	2.41		-100.00%		2.50	2.31		-100.00%
September	1.96	2.35		-100.00%		2.37	2.39		-100.00%
October	1.77	2.15		-100.00%		2.14	2.35		-100.00%
November	1.54	2.08		-100.00%		1.88	2.34		-100.00%
December	1.78	2.13		-100.00%		2.24	2.49		-100.00%

Source: Dutch Product Board for Livestock & Meat